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NEWS
from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information,
Publications and Reports
Washington, D.C.
20210

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10, 1975

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The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

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Region II	Edward I. Weintraub Room 3510 1515 Broadway New York, N.Y. 10036 212-971-5477	New Jersey New York Puerto Rico Virgin Islands
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Region VIII	Ernest E. Sanchez Room 17010 Federal Bldg. 1961 Stout St. Denver, Co. 80202 303-837-4234	Colorado Montana North Dakota South Dakota Utah Wyoming
Region IX	Tor Torland Room 10007 Federal Bldg. 450 Golden Gate Ave. San Francisco, Calif. 94102 415-556-3423	Arizona California Hawaii Nevada
Region X	Ernest Hood Federal Office Bldg., Rm. 7018 909 First Ave. Seattle, Washington 98174 206-442-7620	Alaska Idaho Oregon Washington

Week of November 10, 1975

BLACK FEDERAL OFFICIAL
HELPED BREAK RACIAL BARRIERS

ATLANTA -- Phenizee F. Ransom Jr., a black manpower planning specialist in the U.S. Department of Labor's Atlanta regional office, has had a long career helping to break down racial barriers to jobs.

He gained first-hand knowledge of racial prejudice during the first portion of his 20-year tenure as manager of an Atlanta office of the Georgia Employment Service.

He would call an employer on the telephone to arrange an appointment and "the employer would be extremely cordial and interested in knowing about our office's job applicants who might fit into his work force. But, when I'd walk into his office and extend my hand, you could see his face fall and his manner grow cooler. He just wasn't ready to deal with a black as a peer."

The fact that white employers weren't "ready" didn't deter Ransom one moment from fulfilling his responsibility and determination to place qualified blacks in non-traditional professional and clerical jobs in Atlanta.

Among some of the many serious barriers he had to overcome, the Civil Rights Act notwithstanding, he says, were aptitude tests contrived to eliminate blacks from job competition and an assumption on the part of employers that their white employees would resent black co-workers.

But with persistence and a constant good humor in the face of frequent rebuffs, Ransom gradually achieved a high degree of success in placing blacks in desirable jobs in previously all-white firms.

With a church-oriented background, it isn't surprising that Ransom knew early he wanted to go into ministry, but the age at which he began that career is surprising. At 14 he was preaching each Sunday at two rural churches near Boggs Academy, Keysville, Ga., where he graduated from high school in 1934.

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That same year he entered Albany State College, Albany, Ga. and for the next seven years his life was a checkerboard of college classes and responsible jobs with the federal government's National Youth Administration (NYA), a program designed to train and find jobs for unemployed young people.

As director of an Albany residential project at 21, Ransom was the youngest NYA administrator in the Southeast. He continued to work with the NYA while he earned an AB degree in religion and philosophy from Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N.C., a a BS degree in education from Albany State College, and a bachelor's in theology from Pike's Peak Seminary, Pike's Peak, Colo.

In 1945, after a two-year stint with the Army, he joined the Georgia State Employment Service as manager of an Atlanta office, a post he held until 1963.

At that time he became the first black professional in the U.S. Labor Department's Atlanta regional manpower offices. His position was the same one he holds today, manpower development specialist.

In reflecting on Ransom's trail-blazing career, William U. Norwood, the Labor Department's assistant regional director for manpower, Atlanta, says: "Phenizee Ransom had the ability and courage to prove that competent black professionals can gain the enthusiastic cooperation of top state Employment Service officials throughout the Southeast."

Ramsom's many duties include serving as the regional coordinator of manpower services to special groups, such as the handicapped, older workers and minorities in eight Southeastern states.

Characteristically, however, he has also continued to work in the ministry. A year after separation from the Army, he volunteered to help an ill friend who was

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pastor of Atlanta's Butler Street Baptist Church. For eight years he substituted for the friend without accepting payment for his help.

In 1956, following the friend's death, Ransom assumed full pastorship.

In spite of his enormous responsibilities, Ransom never appears harassed. "I don't consider either of my jobs as 'work' in the conventional sense," he says, "I enjoy doing them. I'm only doing what comes naturally to me."

The satisfactions in his Labor Department post are numerous, but they all have to do with helping people, according to Ramson. "Just yesterday I was in downtown Atlanta and happened to bump into an ex-prisoner who was serving seven years for fraud when I first met him years ago. I arranged for him to attend barber school when he was released and today he owns his own business.

"That's happiness to me -- having some part in helping people to realize their potential and to lead full, satisfying lives."

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PRESIDENT NOMINATES BLACK
TO HEAD WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

WASHINGTON -- President Ford has nominated Ronald J. James of Chicago to be administrator of the Wage and Hour Division in the U.S. Department of Labor.

He will succeed Betty Southard Murphy, who became chairman of the National Labor Relations Board on Feb. 7.

Since 1973, James has been serving as regional attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Regional Litigation Center in Chicago. During 1972, he was a trial attorney in the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Transportation, after having served as special assistant to Donald Rumsfeld, in 1971. He served at the Office of Economic Opportunity as special assistant to the director in 1970-71. He was with the Urban Coalition Action Council in the spring of 1970. From 1967 to 1969 he was assistant state's attorney for Iowa.

James was born on April 8, 1937, in Centerville, Iowa, and received his B.A. degree from the University of Missouri in 1959. He served in the United States Army as a lieutenant from 1960 to 1963. He was legislative assistant to Congressman James Bromwell of Iowa during 1963-64.

While on the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights during 1965-66 he received his J.D. degree from American University Law School in 1966. He also did additional graduate work at Georgetown University Law School. He attended Southern Illinois University and received his M.A. in 1972.

James is married to the former Patricia S. O'Connell, and they have four children.

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FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR
REGISTRATION ACTIVITY RISES

WASHINGTON -- Registration activity under the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act (FLCRA) rose in the first quarter of fiscal 1976, with farm labor contractors filing over 1,900 applications for certificates, the U.S. Labor Department has announced.

During the same period in FY 1975, only 422 applications were filed.

Enforcement activity under the FLCRA also increased during the first quarter, with 1,056 investigations made, compared to 265 during a comparable period last year. Of this year's investigations, 79 percent have turned up violations, and 43 percent have found farm labor contractors who failed to register with the department.

The FLCRA requires certification of any person, who, for a fee for himself or another, recruits, solicits, hires, furnishes, or transports migrant workers for agricultural employment within a state or across state lines.

Bernard E. DeLury, assistant secretary for employment standards (ESA), said, "This year's increase in registration is due to stepped-up enforcement and to the December 1974 amendments to the act, which gave migrants greater protection by bringing more contractors under coverage and which made farm operators subject to the law for the first time."

Other first-quarter findings included:

-- issuing of more than 1,800 certificates, compared with 482 in the first quarter last year; and

-- approval of 383 applications to transport migrant workers, compared with 122 last year.

The FLCRA is administered by ESA's Wage and Hour Division. Wage and Hour compliance officers enforce the law across the country.

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WOMEN'S QUEST FOR EQUALITY HIGHLIGHTED
IN SPECIAL NOVEMBER PUBLICATION, 'WOMANPOWER'

WASHINGTON -- A new name--Womanpower--appears on a Department of Labor magazine for November.

The change doesn't signal a new periodical, but identifies a special issue of Manpower, the monthly magazine of the Manpower Administration.

November's Womanpower, developed in conjunction with International Women's Year, focuses on women's quest for equality in the work world.

Articles in the issue show progress toward this goal and highlight remaining problems.

For example, "Married, Moving Up, and Moving," reports that more women are moving into executive jobs but points out the difficulties that arise when wives in such positions get transfer opportunities that don't jibe with their husbands' career plans.

Another article, describes state unemployment insurance laws and practices that offer women "Less Than Equal Protection Under the Law."

Drawing on information gathered by the Manpower Administration's Unemployment Insurance Service, the article tells how some states restrict the benefit rights of pregnant women, pay dependents' allowances to jobless fathers but not to unemployed mothers, or deny benefits to workers who must leave their jobs for family reasons-- a situation far more common among women than among men.

On the brighter side, "How to Succeed in a Journeyman's World" describes the movement of women into the skilled crafts.

And "In the Manner of Rosie the Riveter" tells how Manpower Administration training programs are preparing disadvantaged women for nontraditional fields that offer higher pay and more advancement opportunities.

Single issues may be purchased for $1.30, yearly subscriptions are $15.30. Checks should be made payable to the Superintendent of Documents and mailed to the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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Week of November 10, 1975

VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER TO RECEIVE
LABOR DEPARTMENT'S NEW DESIGN MANUAL

WASHINGTON -- Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller will receive a copy of the first graphics design manual developed by a cabinet-level agency under the Federal Design Improvement Program in a ceremony Nov. 10.

Secretary of Labor John T. Dunlop will present the Department of Labor's graphic communications standards manual to the Vice President at 12:45 p.m. in Room 208, Old Executive Office Building.

The manual outlines a graphics system designed to cut publications costs and improve communications with the American public.

Also scheduled to participate in the ceremony are Nancy Hanks, chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, and Thomas F. McCormick, public printer of the United States.

Representatives of the Joint Congressional Committee on Printing, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Government Printing Office, the Printing Industries of America and the Labor Department will attend the ceremony.

# # #

RAPID GROWTH IN NUMBER WHO WORK
IN PLACES WITH PENSION PLANS

WASHINGTON -- There has been a rapid growth in the number of persons who work in places with retirement plans, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In the mid-1960s, only one in two private nonfarm workers was employed in an establishment with a retirement plan, the Bureau said.

By 1972, the proportion had risen to nearly two out of three. And coverage increased from about 21.5 million active workers in 1965 to 27.5 million in 1972.

The latest coverage estimate is 29 million active workers, BLS said. The estimate is for early 1974.

The increase is reported in an article in the Bureau's Monthly Labor Review for October by Donald R. Bell, a BLS economist.

The level increased from 1968 to 1972 in all industry divisions, except transportation and public utilities. There was growth both in employment in establishments with pension and profit sharing plans and in establishment of new plans, particularly in such nonmanufacturing industries as trade and services.

Bell found that retirement plans are gradually spreading from larger establishments to those in medium and smaller sized firms.

In addition, the prevalence of retirement plan expenditures for nonoffice workers seems to be catching up with that for office workers.

By contract, there was little change in the wide gap between union groups with the highest incidence of protection and nonunion groups with the lowest.

The information was obtained in the BLS 1972 survey of "Employer Expenditures for Employee Compensation".

Every other year, the Bureau asks a scientifically selected sample of plants, stores, offices, and mines in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to furnish

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data on the amount of money they spend on pay for working time, leave time, and such supplements as retirement and health and insurance plans. The 1974 survey is now in progress.

While the survey is carried out primarily by mail, about 10 percent of the data are obtained by the BLS regional office staffs in personal visits to large employers and to a sample of establishments that failed to respond by mail.

In addition to numerous BLS regional office employees all over the country involved in the survey, the Bureau's Office of Survey Management in Washington conducts the mail segment of the survey and carries out the final processing and tabulation of data.

This office is assisted by the staff of the Division of General Compensation Structures, which reviews and edits the questionnaires, analyzes results, and reports findings in the Bureau's publications.

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WORK STOPPAGES: FIRST 9 MONTHS 1975

WASHINGTON -- All major measures of work stoppage activity in the first 9 months of 1975 were lower than the levels recorded in the same period in 1974, according to preliminary estimates of the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Idleness attributable to strikes constituted 0.21 percent of estimated total working time (2.1 working days per thousand), compared with 0.26 percent in 1975. A total of 31.3 million days of idleness has been recorded thus far in 1975, some 7.3 million fewer than in the first 9 months of 1974.

Total Stoppages During the First 9 Months:

-- An estimated 4,418 stoppages were in effect during the first 9 months of 1975, 801 fewer than in the same period of 1974, but only 14 less than in the first 9 months of 1973.

-- Approximately 1,560,000 workers were involved in these stoppages in 1975, 780,000 fewer than were reported for the first 9 months of 1974.

Strikes in 1975 were appreciably smaller than over the same period in 1974, averaging 353 and 448 workers per strike, respectively.

-- The average duration of strikes (as measured by days of idleness per worker involved) was 20.1 days in 1975, an increase of 3.6 days from the comparable period in 1974, and the longest average duration recorded for the first 9 months since 1959.

-- Idleness in large disputes (involving 5,000 workers or more) accounted for slightly over 32 percent of total idleness in 1975, compared with slightly over 30 percent in 1974.

Total Stoppages in September:

--Idleness in September 1975 declined for the second consecutive month to 0.24 percent of estimated total working time (2.4 working days per thousand) but was well above the 0.19 percent recorded in September 1974.

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-- 667 strikes were in progress in September, down from 913 in August and 910 in September 1974. This number was also well below the levels recorded in both 1972 and 1973, when wage and price controls were in effect.

-- Although considerably fewer workers were involved in walkouts this September than in August or in September 1974, the size of these stoppages increased to approximately 465 workers per strike, compared with 455 workers in August and 434 workers in September 1974.

-- Some 3.9 million days off the job were recorded in September, about 500,000 fewer than in August but over 900,000 more than in September of 1974.

-- The 11 large strikes recorded this month (those involving 5,000 workers or more) accounted for almost 60 percent of all striking workers and 43 percent of total days of idleness.

-- Three large public sector stoppages by teachers accounted for 31 percent of all workers and 18 percent of all days idle in September.

Stoppages Beginning in September:

-- An estimated 363 strikes began in September, well below the levels recorded in both the previous month and September 1974. The number of workers involved in these disputes decreased from 183,000 in August to 154,000 in September.

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LABOR TURNOVER IN MANUFACTURING: SEPTEMBER 1975

WASHINGTON - New hires and quits declined slightly from August to September while layoffs increased, according to preliminary figures reported by the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The rate of total accessions, which includes new hires, recalls, and transfers from other establishments within the same company, was 3.7 percent in September, 0.3 percentage points below the August level, seasonally adjusted. Although below the 1975 high of 4.2 percent reached in July, the total accession rate remained substantially above the cyclical low of 3.1 percent reached last December.

The rate of new hires declined to 2.3 percent in September, from 2.4 percent in August. The new hire rate was 0.8 percentage points above the recession low of 1.5 percent reached in January and March of this year but still 0.7 percentage points below the year-ago level.

The rate of quits, which partially reflects worker assessment of job opportunities, declined from 1.5 percent in August to 1.4 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. The quit rate is 0.7 percentage points below the year-ago figure.

The rate of layoffs increased from 1.5 percent in August to 1.7 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. The layoff rate had reached a high of 3.1 percent in January, but then declined steadily through July.

Note: Data in this release reflect the adjustment of employment estimates to new benchmark levels. Seasonally adjusted data have also been revised to reflect the most recent seasonal experience. Seasonally adjusted historical data have been revised back to 1970 and are shown in the October 1975 issue of Employment and Earnings.

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Dear Consumer

Have a Safe Turkey Day

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

The holidays are approaching and thoughts are turning to good times, good cheer, good food—and that old American tradition, the turkey.

But while turkey is easy to prepare and is a nutritious holiday meal, it can also be the cause of certain kinds of food poisoning (like salmonella, an infection of the stomach and intestines which has similar symptoms to a 24-hour virus) unless cooked and served properly.

Therefore, to insure that your holiday turkey is not only delicious to eat, but free of harmful bacteria, you may want to keep in mind these cooking and storage tips:

• Since most turkeys are sold as frozen whole birds, your first consideration should be thawing. Frozen turkey usually is thawed before cooking, but when it does not contain giblets, it can be roasted without thawing. Frozen turkey parts can also be roasted, braised, fried or stewed without thawing first. If you thaw the turkey, cook promptly to avoid contamination with bacteria.

• When roasting a turkey, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) advises that it is safer not to stuff the turkey but to cook the dressing separately. This is because stuffing—which usually contains ingredients (eggs, turkey drippings) that can carry salmonella and other germs—often doesn't reach a high enough temperature inside the turkey cavity to kill bacteria. USDA suggests that if you do stuff the turkey, use a meat thermometer to make sure the stuffing reaches at least 165 degrees F. (To check stuffing temperature, remove the turkey from the oven, insert the thermometer into the body cavity and leave it there for five minutes.)

• To insure your turkey is safe to eat, USDA warns against partly roasting it one day and completing the roasting the next or cooking the turkey at a very low temperature over night. Unless roasted at a high temperature — USDA recommends 325 degrees F — there will not be enough heat to kill the germs that can cause salmonella and other bacteria to grow.

• Although cooking at high enough heat kills salmonella and other germs, using the same platters and utensils before and after cooking can recontaminate the turkey. As a safety precaution, wash all utensils and dishes thoroughly after contact with the raw turkey.

• If there are leftovers, store them quickly, loosely wrapped, in the coldest part of your refrigerator. USDA advises that you remove the stuffing and store it separately in a covered container. Use these leftovers within two days.

• If you want to keep the leftovers for a longer period of time, you can freeze cooked turkey at zero degrees F, or lower, but make sure to remove the stuffing to freeze separately.

For more information on buying, cooking and storing turkey and other kinds of poultry, you can order How to Buy Poultry (25 cents) and Feeding a Crowd: Do it Safely (free) from Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the proportion of workers on extended hours who received premium pay declined from about 43 percent in 1973 to 36 percent in 1975.

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In service industries, the proportion of workers receiving premium pay was about the same as 2 years earlier, 26 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

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About 4.9 million blue-collar and 7.7 million white-collar workers worked 41 hours or more a week in May 1975, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

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The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that of workers who worked more hours than the standard workweek in May 1975, about 70 percent of those who were union members and 30 percent of those who were unorganized received premium pay.

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